IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Mitsunori NODONO

Title: PROCESS FOR CONTINUOUSLY PRODUCING

POLYMERELECTROLYTE MEMBRANE AND PRODUCING

APPARATUS THEREFOR

Appl. No.: 10/549,921

International March 24, 2004

Filing Date:

371(c) Date: September 20, 2005

Examiner: Henry S. HU

Art Unit: 1796

Confirmation 7960

Number:

<u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.56</u>

MAIL STOP: IDS

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

A copy of each non-U.S. patent document and each non-patent document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R.

§1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The documents listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 were cited as being relevant during the prosecution of the corresponding Japanese applications JP 2003-157052 and JP 2003-090841. A copy of the documents received for these applications have been included as documents D7 and D8. Documents D5 and D6 were cited in the Office Action of D7 and document D4 was cited in the decision for D8. The corresponding U.S. applications for documents D4-D6 have been also been included. English abstracts have not been provided for documents D4-D6; however, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and M.P.E.P. §609.

Applicant respectfully requests that each listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with M.P.E.P. §609.

Although Applicant believes that no fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be due to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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